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RINGWOOD CITY

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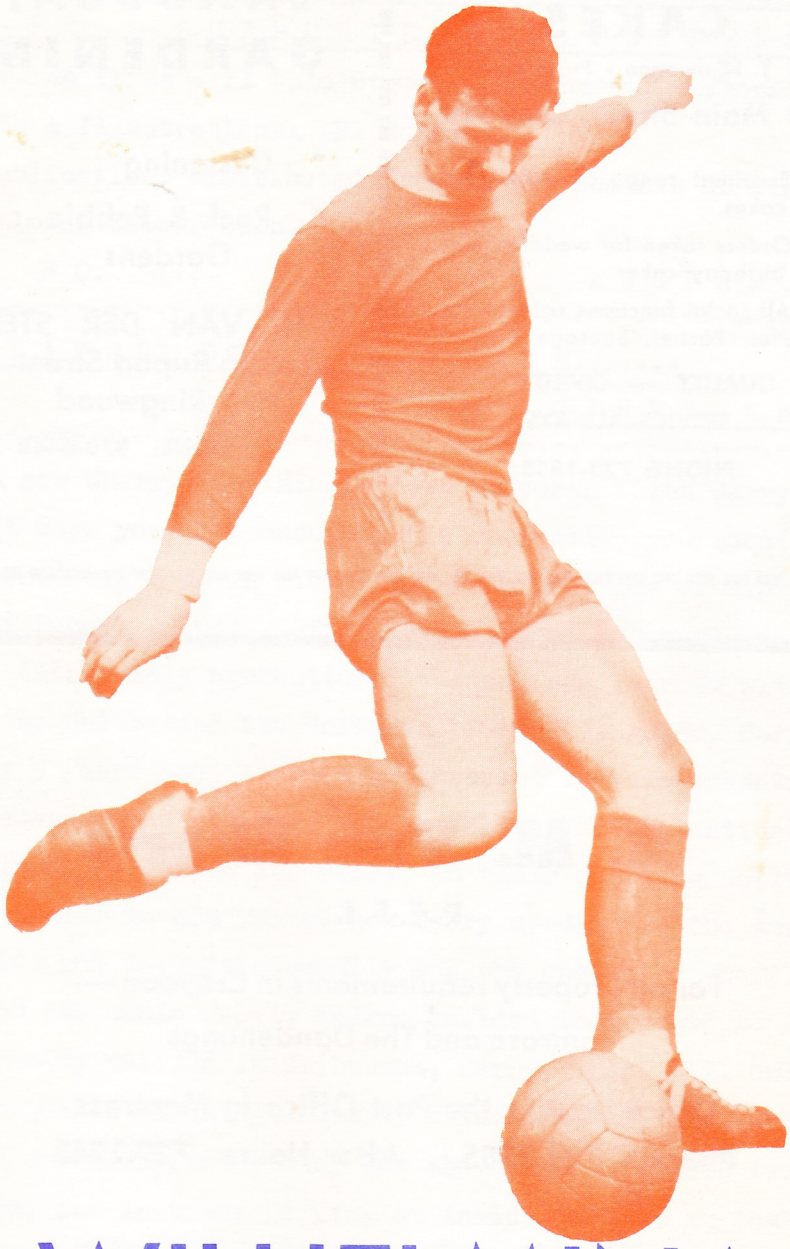

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OUR PLAYER OF THE MONTH.....

GERRY KEUKEN.

Not Jerry, nor Cherry, but simple down to earth Dutch Gerry or rather "Gerrit" (I dare you to pronounce this correctly, you good old Tommies and Scotties!) was born in Wierden, in the province of Overijssel, on the 16th of December 1947. After having spent his early days in the outback of this mainly agricultural region, and learned with some difficulty to understand the "official Dutch" language, Gerry started, when barely 9 years old, to take an interest in this scientific game, called "soccer". And his dad, who has always enthusiastically support-ed both his boys, Tjibbe and Gerry, in their sporting activities, re-calls with a tear in his voice, how Gerry used to be the smallest boy on the field, and therefore usually was the one to be shuffled about. When in 1958 the whole family Keuken decided to migrate to Australia and subsequently settled in Melbourne, Gerry, then still only a boy of 10, soon joined the Ringwood City Wilhelmina juniors, where he al-ready stood out as a goal getter for the under 12's with two goal kicking legs, and in turns playing at inside left or at inside right. This youngster was quick to draw the attention of the State selectors and at 15 he made his first appearance for Victoria against N.S.W. in

OUR PLAYER OF THE MONTH, GERRY KEUKEN: (Continued)

the under 16 side, playing in his usual position at inside left. Promotion to the seniors followed only one year later, where Gerry became a regular with our reserves. During that same year, he was still going to get his chance as inside right with the first team against old rivals Slavia. Always a keen player, Gerry also participated in the under 23 competition on Sundays. It was during one of those games, that he badly knocked his head in a collision, and only semi conscious had to be rushed to hospital. Strangely enough this sad accident brought Wilhelmina an easy goal, as the ball rolled unhindered over the line. But this was to be a very costly goal for Gerry, who was out of the game for more than 3 months. Suffering from the after effects of this brain shock it naturally put him back. But not for long. For after Ringwood City Wilhelmina got relegated to the first division, Gerry again became a regular first team player, and he helped to make it possible for Wilhelmina to regain State League status, showing an aggressive style of play, which brought immediate results. No matter whether he operated on the wing or in the centre our boy scored a hat full of goals, 15 to be exact, and at the end of the season he was only surpassed by Steve Atkins, who made 19 goals. In last years best and fairest player competition Gerry took third placing, behind the winner, Huubke Vleugels and his runner up, Bobby Wyatt. Also not a bad showing for a 19 year old lad. And although the going in the State League this year is so much heavier, Gerry, after a short relapse, during which he again played a while in the reserves, is now again very much on the ball and forms a constant menace to all defences, which cannot

OUR PLAYER OF THE MONTH, GERRY KEUKEN: (Continued)

afford to make a slip with this boy continuously breathing down their neck. Today, only in his teens, but in spite of this already with a bag full of experience of senior soccer, Gerry at the age of 20 is still at the beginning of what we may hope will be a long and successful soccer career with Ringwood City Wilhelmina, where he came up right from the nursery. Our own little Gerry boy! E. d. V.

* * * * *

LOOKING AHEAD AND PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE

When are we going to form a special team, consisting of our most promising young and junior players, a shadow eleven of our first team? Jan Bens suggested to use the third team for this purpose, which seems an excellent idea, providing they could play in a special competition for such teams only. Nothing would assist better to foster and develop local talent, in which we should be primarily interested. For imports certainly do not always make good club men. Think of Schroif, or Tzenos, both selected to represent Victoria. Where are they now, and what have we gained for our State team? Or what for that matter have their clubs gained, besides throwing a lot of good money away which they could have put to good use coaching their young local hopes. All those players, who are mostly well over the hill, only achieve to discourage our own youngsters, who every time are being pushed aside. During the Cardiff City visit by far the stiffest opposition was provided by the state side of S.A., consisting of all young local talent with their roots solidly anchored in Australian soccer, and not of a bunch of opportunists, here today and gone tomorrow. A well known official expressed fears the other day, that by giving youngsters a chance State League clubs might face relegation. In my opinion this risk is far greater with a team composed of second rate imported players, who see Australia as their last hope to make a quick buck, and could not care less for the club whose colours they defend. Fortunately this does not apply to our boys, but I could name a few players in the State League with this frame of mind. However the youngster who grew up within the club has a different mentality. He may lack the experience, but certainly not the determination to win for his beloved team. Come on selectors, to whatever club you may belong, remember S.A. pointed the way. Don't hesitate now, follow them!

STATE LEAGUE LADDER AFTER RESULTS OF JULY 27 AND 28:

	P.	W.	D.	L.	FOR - AGAINST.	POINTS
1. Croatia	16	10	2	4	27 - 13.	22.
2. Polonia	16	8	6	2	23 - 13.	22.
3. South Melbourne Hellas	16	8	6	2	29 - 18.	22.
4. Hakoah	16	8	4	4	26 - 16.	20.
5. George Cross	16	6	5	5	28 - 21.	17.
6. Ringwood City Wilhelmina	16	5	5	6	21 - 20.	15.
7. Lions	16	5	5	6	14 - 19.	15.
8. Alexander	16	5	4	7	24 - 32.	14.
9. Port Melbourne Slavia	16	4	5	7	18 - 20.	13.
10. Juventus	16	4	5	7	19 - 32.	13.
11. Melbourne	16	3	5	8	17 - 28.	11.
12. Footscray J.U.S.T.	16	3	2	11	18 - 32.	8.

STATE LEAGUE RESERVES LADDER AFTER RESULTS OF JULY 27 AND 28:

	P.	W.	D.	L.	FOR - AGAINST.	POINTS
1. George Cross	16	14	1	1	33 - 11.	29.
2. Ringwood City Wilhelmina	16	9	4	3	33 - 18.	22.
3. Polonia	16	9	2	5	36 - 29.	20.
4. Juventus	16	7	5	4	29 - 23.	19.
5. Port Melbourne Slavia	15	8	2	5	28 - 27.	18.
6. Hakoah	15	6	5	4	29 - 19.	17.
7. Footscray J.U.S.T.	15	6	3	6	18 - 20.	15.
8. Croatia	15	6	2	7	25 - 21.	14.
9. Lions	15	5	3	7	19 - 29.	13.
10. Melbourne	15	4	1	10	21 - 30.	9.
11. South Melbourne Hellas	16	3	1	12	11 - 23.	7.
12. Alexander	16	1	1	14	10 - 42.	3.

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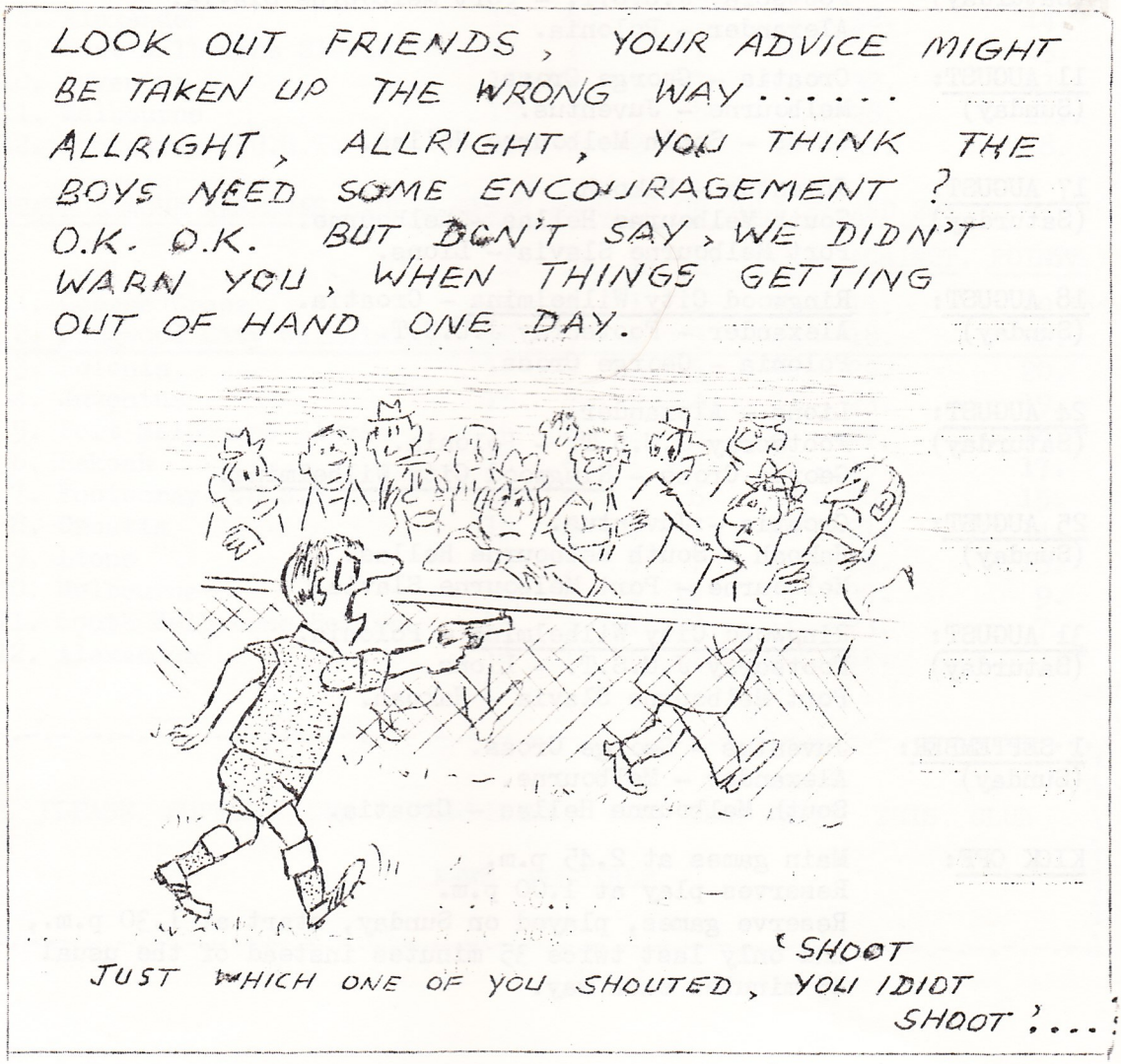
COMPETITION PROGRAM FROM AUGUST 3 - SEPTEMBER 1.

3 AUGUST: (Saturday)	Juventus - Lions. South Melbourne Hellas - Footscray J.U.S.T. Port Melbourne Slavia - Alexander.
4 AUGUST: (Sunday)	Polonia - Croatia. George Cross - Hakoah. Ringwood City Wilhelmina - Melbourne.
10 AUGUST: (Saturday)	Hakoah - Ringwood City Wilhelmina. Footscray J.U.S.T. - Port Melbourne Slavia. Alexander - Polonia.
11 AUGUST: (Sunday)	Croatia - George Cross Melbourne - Juventus. Lions - South Melbourne Hellas.
17 AUGUST: (Saturday)	Juventus - Hakoah. South Melbourne Hellas - Melbourne. Port Melbourne Slavia - Lions.
18 AUGUST: (Sunday)	Ringwood City Wilhelmina - Croatia. Alexander - Footscray J.U.S.T. Polonia - George Cross.
24 AUGUST: (Saturday)	Lions - Alexander. Footscray J.U.S.T. - Polonia. George Cross - Ringwood City Wilhelmina.
25 AUGUST: (Sunday)	Croatia - Juventus. Hakoah - South Melbourne Hellas. Melbourne - Port Melbourne Slavia.
31 AUGUST: (Saturday)	Ringwood City Wilhelmina - Polonia. Footscray J.U.S.T. - Lions. Port Melbourne Slavia - Hakoah.
1 SEPTEMBER: (Sunday)	Juventus - George Cross. Alexander - Melbourne. South Melbourne Hellas - Croatia.
KICK OFF:	Main games at 2.45 p.m. Reserves play at 1.00 p.m. Reserve games, played on Sunday, start at 1.30 p.m., and only last twice 35 minutes instead of the usual 45 minutes each way.

ONE NEW FACE. THAT'S ALL!

Michael Pye, 22 years old, and an inside forward, who has played for Ashton, which is the same club as Barry O'Toole came from, will shortly arrive from the old country. He is a landscape gardener and is still single. Are there any unattached Dutch girls left amongst our supporters, who maybe also like gardening?

* * * * *



SOUNDS FROM THE BATTLE FIELD

Ringwood City Wilhelmina - South Melbourne Hellas 1 - 1 - THRILLING & ACTION PACKED. - Games like these are not made to improve one's heart condition, going from one sensation to another. At first we see, almost immediately from the word go, Gerry Keuken give a beautiful pass to Bobby Wyatt, with his shot going only inches past the goal post. Next we watch Michael Plunkett bring the ball up along the side line, and suddenly crumble up in pain, with what later turned out to be a pulled muscle. Will he stay in? Is he going off? In he comes again, out he goes, to be finally replaced by Johny Feenstra. Then Alan Villers receives a kick, and is being evacuated to the wing, where he only carries on at half strength for the rest of the game. Just before halftime Steve Atkins zig zags through the Hellas defence to fire a tremendous shot at diving goalie Dandrakis, who only barely by the top of his fingers manages to divert the ball for a corner. Having survived this thrilling and emotional first half, tragedy soon loomed around the corner, when within 10 minutes of the resumption of play Steve Atkins was savagely attacked from the rear by Hellas centre half Roussis, who earlier had failed to stop this talented boy on many occasions. He had to be carried off on a stretcher with a suspected broken leg, which fortunately later turned out to be not quite as serious as it seemed at first. No replacements being allowed after halftime, we were left to carry on with only 9 men plus a half cripple, namely Alan Villers, who proved himself an exemplary club man by refusing to abandon his team mates, and still remained of some use. In spite of all this our courageous team managed to keep up the pressure, and during another offensive the Hellas goalie only partly could clear the ball away. Gerry Keuken managed to get hold of it within the penalty area, but was promptly

SOUNDS FROM THE BATTLE FIELD: (Continued)

floored by "butcher" Roussis, who is a disgrace to any State League side. Referee Mr. Stafrace, who held the reins very tight and was all the time well in command of the match, immediately and without any hesitation pointed to the penalty spot. And so the explosive situation had reached a climax. Who was going to take the kick of which so much depended for this courageous but battered Wilhelmina side. Players looked at each other, and after some hesitation finally Terry Vowles stepped forward, resolutely laid the ball on the penalty spot, took a run and under the boos of the Hellas supporters kicked it high into the net, to give us the lead in the 62nd minute of play. It is hardly possible to describe the wild scenes, which followed. Supporters falling around each other's neck, hugging, kissing and jumping sky high for joy! But this was not yet going to be the end of all our emotions. With almost another half hour to go, and far inferior in numbers, Ringwood City Wilhelmina fought with their backs against the wall. Wave after wave of desperate and extremely dangerous Hellas attacks were launched upon Nico van Egmond's fortress. During one of those Micic appeared alone in front of poor Nico, who came half way out of his cage, and then suddenly stopped for a supposed offside, only to see the ball disappear via the goal post into his domain. Hellas had scored the equaliser, and with still another 17 minutes to go. But this is as far as our boys would allow them to go. For whatever Hellas tried after this, our defence stood firm, and it was with a visible sigh of relief, that the final whistle was greeted by this nice fighting bunch of fellows, from which it would be difficult to pick one who stood out above all the others, for everyone of them was simply splendid. Maybe we should perhaps make an

SOUNDS FROM THE BATTLE FIELD: (Continued)

exception for Huubke Vleugels, who staged a magnificent comeback, and also for our junior Johny Feenstra, who had the difficult task of replacing the injured Michael Plunkett against star winger Pyrgolios, but never gave this dangerous player a real chance. As far as Hellas goes, they were damn lucky to draw the game and should transfer one or two of their players to the rugby league, where they would be better put to use than in a soccer team.

THE RESERVES had no reason to share in the jubilations of the first team, deservedly being defeated 1 - 0 by the Hellas Reserves. The winning goal was scored early in the second half, and after the referee overlooked a flagrant offside. The shot of the player concerned was still deflected by Jack Elsten, but unfortunately the ball landed in front of another player's feet, who scored from close range. This looks now like curtains for the premiership hopes of this side. However wonders have happened before, and a sudden reversal of form of leaders George Cross, or even more likely an unexpected demand upon their seconds for first team replacements, owing to injuries sustained, could still swing the balance of power in our favor. After all, we do remain in second place!

Port Melbourne Slavia - Ringwood City Wilhelmina 0 - 1, WE KILLED THEM, YET ONLY SCORED ONE LONELY GOAL. - From the first minuted of play Slavia was under constant pressure, but our pleasant and accurate field play was hardly ever rounded off by a well placed shot for goal. And those which went in the right directions found no mercy with reliable Slavia reserve goalie Hunter. Our dominance is best illustrated by the fact that Nico van Egmond did not get a chance to even handle the ball until the 15th minute had passed. Also on two occasions we were denied a penalty by Mr. Maitland, once when half way through the first half Gerry Keuken was brought down well inside the area, and 5 minutes later, when

SOUNDS FROM THE BATTLE FIELD: (Continued)

the same happened to Bobby Wyatt, and he only awarded a free kick on the fringe, from which unlucky Terry Vowles sent the ball crashing against the top corner of the woodwork. Another laudible effort by hard working Gerry Keuken to first take and then pull the ball away from Slavia's goalie was also promptly interrupted by Mr. Maitland's whistle. Sorry to say, but I could not see anything irregular in Gerry's determined bid! And so the interval came with still no score on the board.... A renewed offensive early in the second half also did not produce any result. With the boys getting a bit tired and down hearted, Slavia at last got a chance to wrestle itself loose from the iron grip, and Nico had to save a couple of times, which he did in his usual confident and brilliant manner, literally flying through the air towards the ball. Finally, when everybody had already given up all hope for a victory, Bobby Wyatt got hold of the ball in the centre, exactly 8 minutes from the end, and stormed all alone towards the Slavia goal. Keeper Hunter, seeing the danger, came out in a flash, but too late, for Bobby intelligently lobbed the ball in true "footie" manner high over him into the deserted goal mouth. And so this late burst gave us the full marks after all. No fluke for sure!

THE RESERVES had to once again recognise the superiority of the Slavia Reserves by the odd goal in seven. They somehow always seem to miss out against this team, although two blunders from Jack Elsten were greatly responsible for this defeat, which adversely affects our position on the ladder. Two goals down just before the tea, or should I rather say the oranges, John Orr reduced the leeway in the 55th minute by a well placed free kick via a Slavia defender. 10 minutes from full time Jack Elsten let the ball pass between his outstretched arms, and so it got to 1 - 3. Then, within a matter of 5 minutes, 3

SOUNDS FROM THE BATTLE FIELD: (Continued)

more goals were added, when first Gordon Culbard utilised an "accurate pass" from a Slavia player, followed by another point on the other side, when Jack Elsten forgot to come out of his goal, and 5 minutes before the end Barry O'Toole, who is gradually improving, completed the score with a nice classical effort. One question I would like to ask the boys however: "Why start running and chasing the ball 5 minutes from full time? Does a match not last 90 minutes?

Ringwood City Wilhelmina - Alexander or - Bobby Adams versus Alexander 0 - 0. Was he great, the grand old fellow, towering with head and shoulders over the rest of the players of both teams. He dominated the left, he blocked all moves from the right, he was solidly in control at midfield, and above all, he salvaged a point from this hard fought game. And if only our forwards would have been half as good, we would have scored a runaway victory. After this performance one or two heads are certain to roll, and it won't be Gerry Keuken's, the only striker, who fights for every ball and who constantly harrasses the defence. What applies to Wilhelmina, also goes for Alexander: "Absolutely no finishers!" For they too had their share of missed opportunities. But there were not nearly as many as on our side. Therefore we should have won. So what, damn it, we did not..... A happy note at last again from

O U R S E C O N D S. After several weeks of sterility the Alexander Reserves now got a 5 - 1 hiding. At half time the boys were already four up, with 2 goals from Sam Spittle, 1 from Peter Bailey and 1 from John Hamlet, who scored once again 2 minutes from the end, after Alexander had first saved the honor. Barry O'Toole and John Hamlet stole the limelight, and look all set for an appearance in the first team. Others who deserve a mention are keeper Kennedy, Sam Spittle, who

SOUNDS FROM THE BATTLE FIELD: (Continued)

surpassed himself and Sid Steele, still a fine ball player, but the whole team combined particularly well and showed a direct approach, combined with a speed of execution, which so often in the past have proved deadly weapons. Something to remember for future games!

Ringwood City Wilhelmina - Footscray J.U.S.T. 2 - 1. AND WE NOW REMAIN IN STATE LEAGUE NEXT YEAR - This definitely was the hardest game of the season so far, with J.U.S.T. fighting for every inch all the way, and the victory, which looked a certainty 15 minutes from the end, still almost slipped through our hands when Terry Vowles only barely managed to clear the ball off the line in a last minute goal scrimmage. Greatest revelation was newcomer, Wim Spiekermans, who brought the necessary punch, which so sadly had lacked hitherto in the attack. He was a trifle unlucky, when his first dangerous drive ricocheted from the goalpost back into play in the 20th minute. This should have been the opening goal. Now, instead Bobby Wyatt stole the limelight, when he was allowed a free kick from 30 yards out a after 35 minutes of play. Keeper Fode never saw the ball until it nearly tore a hole in the net. What a tremendous drive and what a beautiful goal! Only 5 minutes later Fode committed an unnecessary foul against Hamlet, and thus caused a penalty. Terry Vowles banged it in with force, but aimed straight at the goalkeeper, who in a quick reflex punched the ball over the crossbar for a corner. And so we were robbed of a second goal. After the interval J.U.S.T. put our defence immediately under pressure and John Kennedy, deputising for Nico van Egmond, ill with the flu, got plenty of opportunity to show his class, hereby ably assisted by brilliant Bobby Adams, and determined Terry Vowles and Michael Plunkett. Hard working Tommy

SOUNDS FROM THE BATTLE FIELD: (Continued)

Duignan also did his utmost to relieve the pressure on our defence and swing the game the other way, in which he finally succeeded, when he passed the ball to Wim Spiekermans, who cleverly rid himself of 3 J.U.S.T. defenders and drove the ball hard and high into the net, thus giving us a 2 - 0 lead, 18 minutes before the end. And we almost got another point, when Wim swung his long legs again behind the ball and the J.U.S.T. goalie could not quite master it. Tommy Duignan, who had followed well, rushed forward and kicked it in, but was very unfortunate to still see his thrust miraculously pass in front of goal. Hamlet also saw his shot go past the wrong side of the goal post and so with only 10 minutes left, everything looked rosy. But a last desperate offensive of J.U.S.T. still brought them within inches of a draw, when in a wild scramble in front of Kennedy's goal they first reduced the advance to 2 - 1 only 2 minutes from the end, and nearly repeated the same thing again with only seconds left. Oh, thank heaven for that final whistle, which brought us 2 more valuable points, and practically showed us the green light to safety and a bright future with a new centre forward like Wim Spiekermans, who can score classical goals from any distance. What a nice view! We had almost forgotten what it looked like. Globetrotter and president John van Hoboken once more seems to have spotted the diamond, which adds the glamour to the necklace!

OUR RESERVES only just managed to scrape home by 3 - 2 against the J.U.S.T. Reserves in a poor match after having led up to 20 minutes before the end with 2 - 0. Nico's illness also affected the seconds, where John Kennedy was sorely missed. How about giving one of our promising junior goalkeepers a chance, should such a situation arise

SOUNDS FROM THE BATTLE FIELD: (Continued)

again? George Robinson and Sam Spittle scored one goal each in the first half, and it looked like a run away victory, this in spite of John Orr failing to convert a penalty in the 55th minute, which was saved by the diving goalkeeper. However J.U.S.T. came back to 2 - 2 only 10 minutes before time, and it was finally good groundwork by Johny Feenstra, who gave George Robinson the opportunity to notch the winner with barely 2 minutes left. Although there were no real stars in this line up, it was good to see old timers Tjibbe Keuken and Henk van Tilburg back in action again, after a long spell out in the paddocks. They showed that they still are of good stock!

Lions - Ringwood City Wilhelmina 1 - 1, or THE STORY OF THE TEAM WHICH HAD NO CONFIDENCE IN ITS OWN ABILITIES. After our players had gallantly fought right through the first half, not only against the Lions, but also against the icy gale force wind, to hold the home team scoreless for the first 45 minutes, optimism justly prevailed. And when Steve Atkins opened the score for us, with only 4 minutes gone in the second half, and Gerry Keuken broke through unexpectedly, only to see his cannon ball bounce back into play from under the crossbar, there was every reason to be pleased, and hope for more goals to come. However this was going to be the last we saw of our attack. For a costly error of judgment by Nico van Egmond, who came out of his domain and completely missed the ball to see our former star, Peter Aldis, head it past him into the deserted goal for the equaliser with still only 11 minutes gone of the second half, caused the whole team to panic, and forget, that the best defence is always to attack. We can only blame this apparent lack of confidence to the fact that captain Bobby Adams abandoned the game in the second

SOUNDS FROM THE BATTLE FIELD: (Continued)

half, after having ricked his back in the 18th minute of the first half, when making a desperate save off the goal line. After a quick rub down on the touch line by magician Ted Shaw, our Bobby returned and seemed all right. However, he decided during the interval, that he was not fit enough to carry on, and was replaced by Graham Bibby. With the main stay in our defence gone, and when the first fissure occurred, allowing the Lions to equalise, all confidence had suddenly gone out of the team's play. The midfield was completely abandoned to the home side, who manoeuvred at leisure, to feed their forwards with accurate passes. And all our efforts from then onward seemed solely concentrated on keeping the ball away from our back line at all costs, thus preventing any further goals, without ever thinking of building up any co-ordinated attack. It was a sorry sight, and at the end we got more than we really deserved, when we saved a point out of the wreckage. This was definitely the poorest and most un-co-ordinated showing of the season, with our forwards each in turn individually attempting their luck at goal, without taking at all into consideration, if a team mate was perhaps better placed, or without trying to open up along the wings, which would no doubt have created unexpected chances in the centre. Just some wild kicking, without any real purpose. And to think that these same boys have demonstrated on so many occasions that they can do much better than that. All so terribly disappointing indeed!

OUR RESERVES, compared to this, were like a fresh spring breeze. Combining well, they laid a siege in front of the Lions' goal. Hardly ever did they come across the middle of the field, and John Kennedy took practically no part in the game. Goals just had to

SOUNDS FROM THE BATTLE FIELD: (Continued)

come, and when a desperate Lions' defender knocked the ball out of goal with the hand, Henk van Tilburg, who played a good game on the wing, calmly converted the penalty kick in the 60th minute of play. John Hamlet, who incidentally got the ball in a flagrant off side position, made number 2. George Robinson, in another good effort, was unlucky to hit the goalpost, but Sam Spittle had more luck with what was intended to be a high cross from the wing. For the wind took control of the ball, and blew it high into the goal mouth, where it passed between the outstretched hands of the Lions' goalie for yet another point, which thus gave the boys a comfortable 3 - 0 win. Excellent work!

And this again sums it all up for the month, and it should help those "poor" supporters, who only attend our home games, or worse still, only turn up to watch a winning team, or perhaps the less fortunate ones amongst us, who forcibly had to miss out on one or the other game, on account of the flu epidemic, doing the rounds, I repeat, it should help all of you to keep in touch with the every week goings on and the feats achieved on the field of honour and should further enable you to read about it all in comfort and snuggled up near the fire side, while those other staunch and faithful, never say die supporters follow their team week after week all over Melbourne, braving all the combined elements of hail, cold, wind, thunder, rain and mud, just to see their heroes perform..... and maybe even win as well.

E. d. V.

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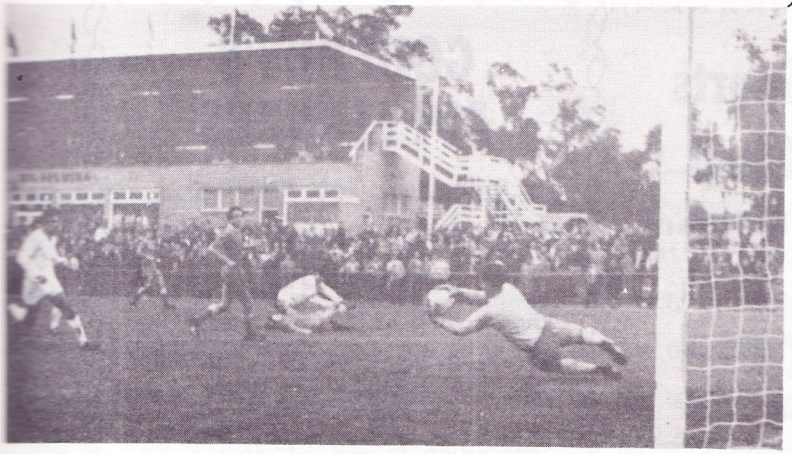

Nick van Egmond a top-line performance

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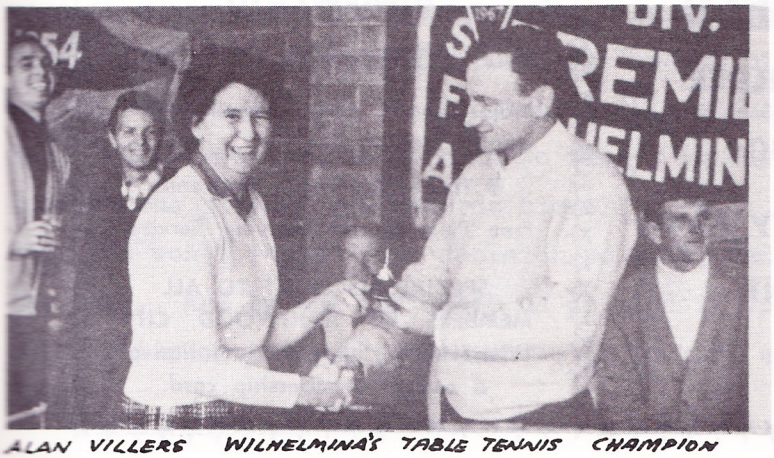

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WHY I'M LEAVING!

BY JAN BENS.

When I asked Jan if the reason for his rather sudden departure to Holland, on the 6th of September, is that he has not been happy at Ringwood City Wilhelmina, I certainly did not expect such a strong reaction. For Jan had no hesitation to declare that Wilhelmina was the finest club in Australia, and he is also very pleased with our boys, who always promptly follow his directions at training or during the games. But, says Jan Bens with a tear in the eye: "I'm homesick for Holland" and on second thought he added: "Perhaps once I'll be back over there, I might regret having left after all." Subsequently, comparing working conditions for coaches in Holland to the ones existing in Australia, Jan explained that a professional coach in Holland has a much more secure position, and is protected under the conditions of his contract, of which always three copies are being issued, one for himself, one for the club and one, which goes on file at the national soccer federation. If at any time the club should fail to fulfil the obligations under the agreement, the coach can request the national body to intervene on his behalf, and secure his rights. This is more than any coach can expect here in Australia, where he always finds himself in a mercenary position towards his club. Recent events have again clearly illustrated this situation. Thus says Jan Bens, whose greatest concern is to always do the right thing, both towards the players and towards himself. Well, we sincerely hope that you won't regret your decision to quit, Jan, and wish you all the best. And by the way, keep us in mind if you should come across some promising young players, who wish to kick a ball in kangaroo land!

E. d. V.

SO MANY FOR SO FEW GOALS

FIRST TEAM:

Steve Atkins	7.
Terry Vowles	4.
Bobby Wyatt	4.
Sid Steele	2.
John Hamlet	1.
Gerry Keuken	1.
Wim Spiekerman	1.
Allan Villers	1.
TOTAL:	21.

SECOND TEAM:

Sam Spittle	4.
Henk van Tilburg	4.
Gordon Culbard	3.
John Hamlet	3.
Gerry Laks	3.
Jacky van Schaik	3.
Peter Bailey	2.
Gerry Keuken	2.
John Orr	2.
George Robinson	2.
Sandy Wilson	2.
Barry O'Toole	1.
Eddy de Wit	1.
One in own goal by J.U.S.T.	1.
TOTAL:	33.

SOME INTERESTING FACTS: Note, that Terry Vowles, who has not played in the forward line since the beginning of the season, when he scored 3 goals in that memorable game against Juventus, in spite of this still shares second place with Bobby Wyatt, and could even have had one more goal to his name, if he would not have missed that penalty against J.U.S.T. In the reserves, Henk van Tilburg, who has only put in an appearance in a few of the games, is still top scorer with Sam Spittle. And "the quiet man", Jacky van Schaik, who only came on a couple of times, and then mostly still acted as a linkman, has 3 goals to his name. I understand that he has hung up his boots. Is there any chance of this boy staging a comeback for we badly need players like him!

* * * * *

I WOULD LIKE TO KNOW.....

The other day our president and team manager as well, John van Hoboken, seemed a pretty desperate man, when he told me: "Yesterday, (this was a weekday), I spent more than 4 hours in discussions with various players, trying to find a solution to their problems. Not only that, the running of the club costs me money every day of the week, now I do not even get a fair chance to conduct my own business any more, all that for the sake of soccer." So far for Mr. Hoboken. Our secretary, John Gorton, spends at least 2 - 3 nights a week attending to different meetings at Soccer House and his wife complains that the phone starts ringing as soon as he walks in the door, and he therefore never gets a chance to sit down to a proper meal. This for John Gorton, sometimes labelled as "evasive" by certain members. While you were enjoying your previous weekend at home, perhaps having a "leisurely" argument with your wife and children, your editor spent between 30 and 40 hours behind the typewriter, trying to beat the deadline for this issue of your magazine, while driving his wife slowly but surely up the pole with the clattering sound of the machine..... Now all I would like to know...is all that tax deductable?

* * * * *

OUR WEEKLY SWEEP

At that memorable game against Hellas, we saw S. Blaauw, A. v. Mullem and H. v/d Steen sharing $6.00. The following week the late goal scored by Bobby Wyatt against Slavia made N. de Bruyn $2.00 richer. A scoreless draw with Alexander suited H. v/d Steen and made his wallet $3.40 fatter. The important game against the wooden spooners resulted in a deserved 2 - 1 win, but was not of great benefit to sweep winners J. v/d Laak, P. v/d Laak, A. Meyer, N. de Bruyn and T. Valvo who got only 90 cents each. At windy Montgomery Reserve Lions took a point and saw a windfall for A. v. Mullem $2.40.
Till the next game and good luck.

B.B.

STEVE ATKINS GETS A PERMANENT BODYGUARD

Our popular goal getter is giving up his freedom of movement, at least off the field, when he will marry his little Dutch girl, Netty Cassee, on Wednesday, the 7th of August at the Melbourne Registry Office - 295 Queen Street - Melbourne. Kick off at 3.15 p.m. sharp. All are cordially invited to be present, personally in preference, or alternatively in spirit, if detained by that common disease "work".

* * * * *

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AND VLEUGELS IS GETTING READY TO LEAVE

After 7 years of uninterrupted service with Wilhelmina Huubke's departure for Holland is now rapidly approaching. He will be playing his last game on August 4 at Jubilee Park against Melbourne. By leaving at present he plans to arrive over there well in time for the start of the new season. Huubke hopes to join his old club Roda Sport, which now plays in the second division. Anita and Huubke's new address in Holland will be: Drievogel Straat 32 - Kerkrade West (Limburg). Good luck, both of you! But we are going to miss your familiar faces.....

A NEW FORMULA FOR THE AUSTRALIA CUP.

Now that we have reached the middle, or should I perhaps say the upper part of the State League ladder, this competition is something in which we are becoming directly and ever increasingly interested. The A.S.F. (Australian Soccer Federation), in close consultation with the different State bodies, has arrived at the following new formula for our only competition on a true national level, and which might well form the basis for a not so distant national league. Firstly all fixtures are to be played midweek, so that these games will not upset the normal competition program. The teams are split up in 2 separate groups, one consisting of the 6 top teams of N.S.W. and the champions of Northern N.S.W., Queensland and the A.C.T., 9 in all thus, the other composed of 6 clubs from Victoria and the champs of S.A., W.A. and Tasmania, also a total of 9. These 18 teams will first be cut down to 16, eliminating the 2 losers of separate matches between number 6 of N.S.W. and A.C.T. premiers on the one hand and between Victoria's number 6 and Tasmania's champions on the other hand. All encounters have further been arranged in advance and in such a manner, that it is impossible for the top teams of N.S.W. and Victoria to clash right from the start, thus inevitably eliminating one or the other, which would seriously affect the public interest created through this knock-out competition. Only the last four, representing the top 2 of each group, will draw to decide who is going to play who in the two semi finals. Just as a matter of interest to us, if we were still to finish the season in fifth place, our first opponent in the Australia Cup would automatically be the S.A. champion.

* * * * *

OUR JUNIORS

The end of the season is already looming ahead, and when this issue will appear, the normal competition will only have two more weekends to run, with Saturday, August 10 and Sunday, August 11 set aside for the final fixtures. Of course most of our teams are still taking part in the next cup round, and hopes are high that they will succeed to still bring several trophies home. I also would like to seize this opportunity to thank our new secretary, Doreen Waters, for her accurate and complete information, which makes the task so much easier and enables me to publish all the latest news in detail. And here now is our monthly report on each individual team.

The under 10 team continued on the road to success. On June 29 they pulled off the biggest feat yet in defeating the so far unbeaten J.U.S.T. side for the cup at Footscray. The 1 - 0 score sufficiently indicates the closeness of the struggle. Ronnie Verniers scored that all important goal. The boys will now be facing Frankston in the semi final and the winner of this clash will play off with Hakoah for the coveted cup. The 7th of July in a mudbath at Croydon our under 10's shone once again, defeating Karingal 3 - 0. Ronnie Verniers again made 2 goals and Danny McLaughlan one. The next victims were Frankston Rangers, outclassed in a 6 - 0 win on their own ground. Ronnie Verniers, Danny McLaughlan and Gary Gibb each scored twice. There was no game on the 21st of July and last week Frankston paid a visit. In a game which gave us a preview of the coming cup semi final between both teams, our lads, in a determined bit, defeated the up to then unbeaten Frankston side by 3 - 0. G. Gibb, D. Tattersall, P. Stewart made 1 each. For the 4th of August the program indicates a trip to Langwarrin and the final game of the

OUR JUNIORS: (Continued)

present competition will be played at home in Croydon on the 11th of August against Doveton. Good hunting, boys!

The under 12 Falcons, playing in the third round of the cup on the 29th of June, gave the Juventus under 12's a sound beating. Final score 11 - 1 with goals from S. Pongho 3, Mike Tattersall 3, David Abram 2, Paul Stewart 1, N. Swinburn 1, plus 1 own goal by Juventus. On the 6th of July they defeated Croydon by 13 - 0, and this with only nine men (boys). D. Abram 2, S. Pongho 3, D. Brown 1, M. Tattersall 2, T. Purdie 2, N. Swinburn 2 and A. Wallace 1. This particular match was the occasion of exceeding 100 goals in the league, probably the first team to reach this total for the current season. July 13 saw a repeat score of their first meeting with Eltham, winning again by 7 - 0. Steven Pongho made 4, bringing his total in this season's competition to 50, and M. Tattersall, D. Abram and D. Brown each notched one. Home to Bayswater on the 20th of July they chalked up 8 goals without a reply from the visitors. Goal scorers were Steven Pongho 4, D. Abram 1, N. Swinburn 1, P. Stewart 1 and M. Tattersall 1. July 27, at Mooroolbark, although playing well below usual form, the boys won 9 - 0. S. Pongho got 5 goals (!), P. Stewart 2 and D. Brown and N. Swinburn each one. August 3 it will be pure slaughter at the Croydon ground, when Falcons and Hawks meet each other for the competition and the last game on August 10 is being played at Box Hill, if this club is able to field a team, which might prove an impossibility. Reason for the outstanding successes of these boys, according to teamleader Brian Wallace is because they play as a team and train hard again as a team. A particular mention also deserves Mr. Arnold Abram, who has assisted in marking the pitch, providing transport for away matches, and lent a hand at

OUR JUNIORS: (Continued)

training sessions. Such reliable assistance is humbly appreciated by both the club and the teamleader.

The under 12 B team, the Hawks, are finding the going still very hard. On Saturday, the 6th of July, and without a teamleader, they went down on our own ground to a far superior Mooroolbark side by 1 - 10. However there was a marked improvement the next week on the 13th of July against Croydon, when they were really unlucky to lose by the minimum score of 1 - 0. The match against Box Hill on the 20th ended in a 2 all draw, again going one better on the previous week. Playing host to Doncaster boys on July 27 they had to alas admit defeat again by 4 - 0. Urgently wanted a teamleader. One father, please take charge!

On August 3, a foregone conclusion, when both our under 12's clash together. As this team is no longer represented in the cup, it plays the last official game on Saturday, the 10th of August at home against Eltham. Still, the boys should be able to get some more friendly games after this. How about approaching Healesville for a bit of fun?

The under 14 A team in a closely fought game at Croydon on the 29th of June downed Corio by 2 - 1, thus earning the right to play in the next cup round. Back in the competition on July 6 the boys lost 1 - 0 against Bayswater 'A'. A valid excuse was that S. Kelly and D. Conway were not fit. For this reason also Conway played in goal. On July 13 they came easy by the points, as Box Hill could not field a team, owing to illness. A good 7 - 0 win the 20th at Doncaster. The goals were scored by S. Kelly 3, T. Schioperuien 2 and D. Conway 2. The 27th of July they figured in a victory over Bayswater's 'B'

OUR JUNIORS: (Continued)

team. The result was 4 - 0, with D. Conway making 2 goals and S. Kelly and S. Goodchild each 1 goal. A visit to Waverley is scheduled for the 3rd of August, and on the last weekend of the league games, they have a bye. But of course the next cup round is coming up soon.

The under 14 B team did not come into action until the 13th of July against Bayswater 'A'. The opposition proved much too strong for our boys, who lost 6 - 0. Defensive, however, they played a very good game, avoiding a still more crushing defeat. Both full backs and the 2 Brown brothers starred. Michael Mooney showed great improvement at right half. On the whole a very good effort. It must have been some consolation to them that on the previous week the points were awarded to our B's, when Bayswater 'B' did not turn up. And the same thing happened when Waverley could not field a team on the 20th of July. It really becomes monotonous, but Box Hill also had to forfeit their game on the 27th, as many of their boys were suffering from the current flu epidemic. Perhaps the mere thought of our mighty B team made them feel ill? Anyhow, this is an easy way of coming by the points, but they are certainly not getting much of a kick out of it. The program mentions no game for the third of August, which means that the home match against Doncaster on the 10th of August will be their final fixture for the 1968 season, as all cup hopes have already long faded away. Friendly games is the solution here to keep in trim!

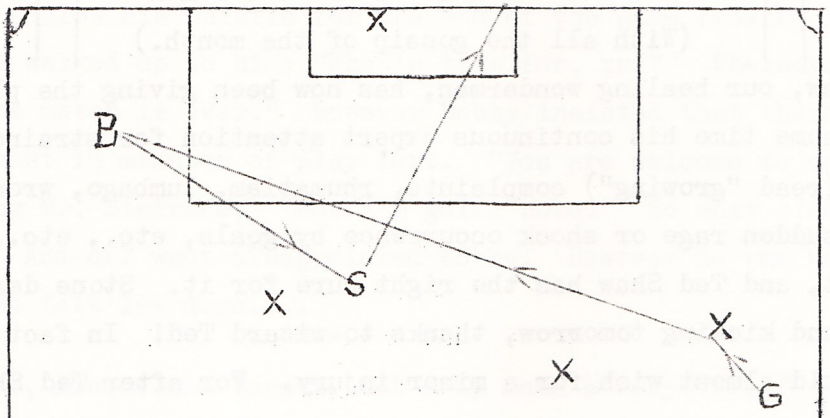
The under 16 team, the seniors amongst our juniors, and showing first signs of a rough surface on a smooth skin, are still in the running for the cup, as they survived the last round against Sandringham by 2 - 1 on the 29th of June, mainly thanks to their brilliant young goalie, Andy Kerr. The goal scorers were M. Ziolo and P. van Est.

OUR JUNIORS: (Continued)

This was the very first time the boys had to fight for the points. The flu was again responsible for the postponement of the following game on the 6th of July, when Frankston could not get a team together. On the 13th, at Heidelberg, there were more arguments about decisions taken on the field than actual play. This encounter, played at a snail's pace, however ended in a 5 - 0 victory. C. Ignatidis and R. Dutton each made 2 goals and L. Pongho 1. These boys figured in yet another win on the 20th of July, when Box Hill was downed by 7 - 1. Sorry, but here is a neglectful team leader again, as I did not receive any goal scorers! According to our secretary the 3 best players on that occasion were R. Bailey, L. Pongho (how could it be otherwise with such a famous name!) and goalie A. Kerr. Paying a call to Doncaster on July 27, there again were no worries, 7 - 0 was the result. J. Luyten made 4, T. Huyser 1, P. van Est 1 and C. Ignatidis 1.

Next week, on the 3rd of August, when Brighton pays a visit to the Croydon ground, this could again turn out to be a thriller, just like in the first leg of the competition, when our boys ended by winning 5 - 3, after having been 3 goals down at half time. And the last game of this brief competition at Bayswater should then only be a mere formality, if they manage to clinch the premiership on the previous weekend. We keep our fingers crossed! Also for the next cup game. Well, this is all the news about our junior sides, who once again kept the orange colors flying high in the sky. We are very proud of you all, boys!

E. d. V.



Gerry Keuken takes a shot at goal but the ball is deflected by a defender and travels on to Bob Wyatt. Bob passes to Steve Atkins, who kicks the ball into goal. If you were the referee, what would be your decision?

GOAL or NO GOAL?

(Solution on page 36.)

PROMOTION AND RELEGATION

Regardless, who will finish at the bottom of the State League this season, they must at present be considered far superior to the champions of the first division. Therefore I would like to suggest a play off on a home and away basis between the first division champions and the wooden spooners of the State League. Whoever wins, earns the right to play in the State League the next season. If each team is victorious in one encounter, the goal average should decide. This system will avoid once and for always clubs from gaining promotion, only to be relegated again at the end of the next season. It will also ensure to keep up State League standards. And the play off will attract a far greater public interest than any ordinary match, and thus net both clubs some badly needed funds. So, how about it, Mr. Edgar?

E. d. V.

OVER THE CROSSBAR

(With all the gossip of the month.)

Ted Shaw, our healing wonderman, has now been giving the players for quite some time his continuous expert attention for strained muscles, groin (read "growing") complaints, rhumatism, lumbago, wrong footed feet, sudden rage or shock occurrence by goals, etc., etc...You just name it, and Ted Shaw has the right cure for it. Stone dead today, alive and kicking tomorrow, thanks to wizard Ted! In fact sometimes one would almost wish for a minor injury. For after Ted Shaw fixes them up, they seem to run twice as fast, and kick ten times harder than before. And you want to see the type and the amount of the equipment, that he carries about. I can assure you, that the horror chamber is simply nothing in comparison to this!

* * * * *

Mr. Maitland aroused the indignation of fanatic supporter, Harry Smith, during the match against Slavia. At one stage he got so annoyed with his decisions that he shouted: "Put a Slavia shirt on, ref!" He could have said the same thing a few weeks earlier, when Mr. Maitland was in command against Hakoah at Jubilee Park. What's wrong with those beautiful bright orange shirts, Mr. Maitland? Don't you like our nice lads? Yet, in spite of this, we would not like to see you quit, Dave!

* * * * *

It's good to see players and supporters join hands. But it's still heart warming to watch players' sweethearts and supporters' wives combine their efforts to operate the canteen during home games. Thank you once again Alicia Dekker, Dianne Newman, Rosina Thorne, Anna de Vries, Lisa Wallace and Adrie Mallegrom, also George Thorne. You all are simply terrific!

* * * * *

OVER THE CROSSBAR: (Continued) "And we don't want to go home."....
Lou Stafrace blew his whistle for the end of the game against Alexander. Bobby Adams walked up to him: "What's this for, ref?" Whereupon Lou stated: "The match is over." However Bobby insisted that there was still at least 15 minutes of play left. "You are welcome to carry on", said smiling Mr. Stafrace, "But I'm going home." So what else can a fellow do. And off went disappointed Bobby. However he was not the only one who felt let down....

* * * * *

Charm dancer, Jacqueline Varney, not only made a very "brief" appearance at the last cabaret ball, but also gave our excellent compere, Len Johnson, a bit of a fright when she insisted on immediate payment, or threatened to stay on. Our terrified friend made sure that she received her money there and then. Perhaps I would have rather chosen the second alternative!

* * * * *

John Kennedy has informed us in true Cassius Clay fashion, that he is "the greatest". Therefore he has asked me to serve Nico van Egmond with a notice to quit. Somehow I don't think that Nico has any intention to comply with this request for the time being! And John admits that Nico is one of the best goalies in the State League, but says he: "I can do still better, for remember I AM THE GREATEST OF THEM ALL!" Well, a bit of rivalry won't hurt, and we are now looking forward to many games of the firsts and the seconds, where the opposing team will be held scoreless, solely through the prowess and the keenness of our goalkeepers. And perhaps the moment will then have come for our supporters to claim: "OUR WILHELMINA IS THE GREATEST OF THEM ALL!"

* * * * *

OVER THE CROSSBAR: (Continued)-"With some King's Cross whispers!" John Orr has joined the police force. This immediately leads to wide speculations. For who is going to caution who during a game, John Orr or the referee? And just think of the added feeling of security for our supporters, when bottle throwers are being neutralised, even before they get a chance to aim their dangerous missiles. Bless you, Johny. And listen to what Marlene Dietrich has to whisper about you: "Oh Johny, I dream of you at half past three in the night and sigh, and sigh, Oh Johny"....

* * * * *

Welcome to Lia and Wim Spiekerman, who has already become very popular in this short time. But oh brother, wait until you meet dashing blonde Lia. You might even forget Wim for a while! Incidentally, dear readers, Lia is a fully qualified ladies' hairdresser, and has what it takes to make your wife or sweetheart look really smart. So be a pal, and take this to heart!

* * * * *

Baby sitters are in fashion now. Think I'll get one for me, while I send my wife to the soccer to write the match reports. Ha, ha!

* * * * *

Albert Lavis, secretary of the social committee, and always on and off the ground literally on the ball, wishes me to make a rectification. He was not born in Australia, as stated in our last issue, but came here from the old country some time ago at the age of 20. Therefore he must be classified as a "P O M", and I leave it to our members to guess how long he now has already been amongst us. Did I say "US"? How old does this make me? For God's sake, help me! Where are my crutches?

* * * * *

OVER THE CROSSBAR: (Continued) - Ssst! This is inside information.... Latest signing of Dutch professional, first division side Eindhoven is Terry Luckhurst, who starred over here with Wilhelmina, before joining Juventus as a striker. The day after Terry signed with Eindhoven, top national league side, D.W.S. - Amsterdam, offered him a contract. How unlucky can you be! Terry, still a Wilhelmina fan at heart, has promised to look out for potential players to join our club over here. And with Huubke Vleugels and Jan Bens shortly also scouting all around Holl -and for us, we should now soon be able to stage a major clash here at Jubilee Park between let's say Ajax and Feyenoord, unless you might prefer to see Go Ahead play A.D.O.? Please let us know in time!

* * * * *

Our under 12 Falcons have now won the championship. Their goal tally: 133 for - 2 against. The secret, a common effort rather than individual attempts. First team forwards, please note!

* * * * *

Have you got your Ringwood City Wilhelmina "car sticker" yet? They are looking very attractive and now are on sale at the club rooms for the ridiculously low price of 50 cents each. May I suggest, if you do not want anyone to peep into your car, that you buy about a hundred to stick on all your windows, and in particular on your windscreen. This should at least assure you of privacy "in eternity".

* * * * *

There he was once again at the Lions' ground, our permanent referee, Lou Stafrace, unforbidding as always, but just. Well, I will say this for you, Lou, you brought us luck, for in the three games in which you blew the whistle we have not been defeated, and I would like to propose to our committee to make you "our talisman" of the year.

Yours sincerely, WISEGUY.

ANSWER TO QUESTION (from page 31)

GOAL. Although in offside positions, Bob Wyatt and Steve Atkins are not adjudged by the referee to be interfering with play when Gerry Keuken shoots for goal. (It is not an offence to be in an offside position; it is an offence to interfere with play or with an opponent or attempt to gain an advantage when in such a position. In such cases the referee is sole judge and decides accordingly.) When the opponent deflects the ball towards them, Bob Wyatt and Steve Atkins are "played on" and, as Steve is not nearer his opponents' goal-line than the ball when Bob passes it to him, he cannot be offside.

* * * * *

FROM OUR THIRD TEAM

Captain Appie van Dinther reports: The game against University of Melbourne on June 30 was postponed to the end of the season, as we could not field a team. Otherwise nothing but decisive victories:

July 7: Princes Park at home 9 - 0. (A. Yates, P. Bailey, J. Orr each 2, T. Keuken, A. Simpson and J. Davies each 1 goal).

July 14: Croydon away 6 - 0. (J. Orr 4, S. Steele 1, B. O'Toole 1).

July 21: Springvale home 7 - 0. (J. Orr 4, P. Brazier 2, B. Thomson 1)

July 28: at Clayton 6 - 1, and this with only 8 players for a start. Goal getter John Orr made 2, R. Bens 1, T. Keuken 1, P. Boek 1, J. Hamlet 1. To be played this month, on Sundays, commencing at 3 p.m.:

August 4: - Ringwood City Wilhelmina - Mooroolbark.
August 11: - Frankston - Ringwood City Wilhelmina.
August 18: - Doncaster - Ringwood City Wilhelmina.
August 25: - Ringwood City Wilhelmina - Prahran.
Sept. 1: - Brighton - Ringwood City Wilhelmina.

* * * * *

PLEASE MAKE A NOTE: Closing date of all copy for our September issue is Saturday, the 31st of August.

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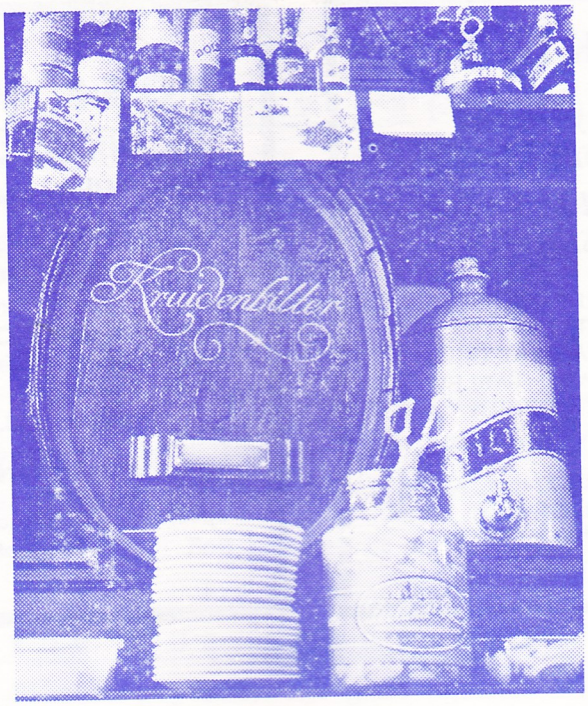

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